

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2917 without my signature.

I appreciate the author's interest in the correctional system and the challenges faced by females incarcerated in prison. However, this bill would duplicate the efforts of an existing commission. The Gender Responsive Strategies Commission (GRSC), which was established by my Administration, has been in existence since 2004. The GRSC has already developed and implemented a number of excellent recommendations and currently has a variety of stakeholders attending the regularly scheduled meetings, including academics, women's advocates, community groups and a bipartisan representation of legislative leaders.

Female inmates present a unique opportunity for our State to successfully rehabilitate individuals, reunite them with their families, and transition them back into our communities as productive law-abiding citizens. Creating a duplicative commission that is more narrow in membership and scope than the existing commission would hinder the current efforts in addressing the necessary reforms for women inmates.

For these reasons I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger